

# TEA LEAVES

## DARJEELING DIOCESE NEWSLETTER

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2025

Bishop's House, Darjeeling - 734101 INDIA

APRIL

### *Bishop's Easter Message*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
"Christ is Risen! Alleluia!"



With hearts filled with joy and gratitude, I greet each one of you this Easter with the triumphant message of the Resurrection. The empty tomb is not a sign of absence, but of victory a sign that death does not have the final word. In Jesus Christ, we have new life, new hope, and a renewed mission.

This year, as we celebrate the glorious Resurrection of our Lord, we are reminded that Easter is not just a feast of joy, but also a call to transformation. Christ's victory over sin and death invites us to rise above the darkness of fear, despair, and division, and to walk as children of light.

I encourage all the faithful to be true witnesses of the Risen Lord. Let us be peacemakers in our families, sowers of hope in our communities, and servants of love in our parishes. May the spirit of Easter renew our commitment to the Gospel and strengthen our unity as one Body in Christ.

Let us also remember in prayer our priests, religious, catechists, youth, and all those serving the Church with dedication. May their tireless efforts in proclaiming the Good News bear abundant fruit.

On this holy occasion, I bless you and your families with the peace and joy that the Risen Christ alone can give. May Mary, our Blessed Mother, continue to intercede for our Diocese and guide us on the path of faith.

Happy Easter!

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

**+Stephen Lepcha**  
Bishop of Darjeeling

### **Report on Chrism Mass at St. Teresa's Church, Kalimpong**



**Date: 10th April 2025**

**Venue: St. Teresa's Church, Kalimpong**

The Chrism Mass, a significant liturgical celebration in the Catholic calendar, was solemnly held at St. Teresa's Church, Kalimpong, on 10th April 2025. The Most Rev. Bishop Stephen Lepcha, Bishop of the Diocese of Darjeeling, was the principal celebrant of the Eucharistic celebration, joined by priests from across the diocese.

The church was filled with faithful parishioners, religious, and lay representatives from various parishes, all gathered to witness this important moment of unity and renewal. The Mass was preceded by a very meaningful sharing of faith and hope by Fr. Andrew and Sister Sherlyn ardent members of the Focolare movement. The Mass began with a grand procession of concelebrating priests, symbolizing the unity of the presbyterium around the bishop.

During the liturgy, the Holy Oils—the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens, and the Sacred Chrism—were blessed and consecrated by the bishop. These oils will be used throughout the year in the administration of the sacraments in parishes across the diocese.

In his homily, Bishop Stephen Lepcha reflected on the role of priests as servants and shepherds of God's people. He reminded them of their call to be faithful ministers of the sacraments and

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## Editorial

## Editor's Message Easter 2025

Dear Readers,

*Christ is Risen! Alleluia!*

*As we celebrate the glorious feast of Easter 2025, we are once again reminded of the unwavering hope and boundless love that flow from the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. In a world that often seems clouded by uncertainty and struggle, Easter stands as a radiant beacon reminding us that life triumphs over death, light over darkness, and hope over despair.*

*This sacred season invites us not just to rejoice in the empty tomb, but to become witnesses of the Resurrection in our daily lives. As Pope Francis beautifully said, "Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of the hope and joy of the Resurrection!" Now more than ever, the world needs the light of the Risen Christ, shining through our words, our actions, and our compassion.*

*In this Easter edition, we bring to you reflections, stories of faith, and the vibrant life of our local Church. These moments of grace, rooted in tradition and filled with community spirit, remind us of the strength of our faith and the unity of our diocesan family.*

*May this Easter fill your heart and home with the peace of the Risen Lord. Let us continue to walk together as people of hope, bearing witness to the truth that Christ is alive and He walks with us.*

*Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful Easter!*

*In the Risen Christ,*

### Report on Chrism Mass.....



witnesses of Christ's love, especially to the poor and the marginalized. He also expressed his gratitude to the clergy for their dedication and encouraged the laity to continue praying for their priests.

A touching moment

during the Mass was the Renewal of Priestly Promises, where all priests present recommitted themselves to their priestly duties in the presence of the bishop and the faithful.



The celebration concluded with a fellowship meal in the parish hall, where

priests, religious, and lay faithful came together to share in the joy of the occasion.



The Chrism Mass at St. Teresa's Church was not only a powerful liturgical experience but also a visible sign of unity, faith, and mission within the Diocese of Darjeeling.



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# Report of the Weeklong PR Course at NISCORT

Conducted by: Fr. Cyril, Fr. Robin, and Fr. Biju

Venue: NISCORT Media College

Duration: One Week

## Overview:

The weeklong PR course conducted at NISCORT was a comprehensive and enriching program designed to introduce participants to the fundamentals and practical dimensions of Public Relations, especially in the context of Church communication and media ministry. The sessions were facilitated by Fr. Cyril, Fr. Robin, and Fr. Biju all seasoned professionals in the field of media, communication, and ecclesial PR.



## Content & Structure:

- The course was well-structured, with each day focusing on key aspects of PR including:
- Introduction to Public Relations: Definitions, importance, and the role of PR in the Church.

## Writing for PR:

- Press releases, speeches, and official communications.

## Media Management:

- Dealing with media during crises and promoting Church events.



## Social Media in PR:

- Strategies for effective online presence.

## Event Management and Protocols:

- Planning, organizing, and executing Church-related events.
- Case Studies and Role Plays: Practical sessions based on real-life scenarios.

## Facilitators' Input:

- Fr. Cyril offered deep insights into Church communication strategies and the theological underpinnings of PR.
- Fr. Robin brought in his experience with grassroots communication and community outreach, emphasizing ethical and pastoral dimensions.
- Fr. Biju focused on media tools, crisis communication, and the technical side of PR, including visual storytelling and branding.



## Methodology:

The facilitators used a variety of engaging teaching methods including lectures, interactive discussions, group activities,

simulations, and multimedia presentations. Participants were encouraged to actively take part and apply their learning in real or hypothetical PR situations.



## Impact & Outcome:

- Enhanced understanding of PR concepts tailored to the Church's mission.
- Improved writing and communication skills.
- Greater confidence in dealing with media and organizing events.
- Awareness of the ethical responsibilities in ecclesial PR.
- Strengthened networking among diocesan media personnel.

## Feedback from Participants:

Participants appreciated the clarity, depth, and practical orientation of the sessions. The course was described as "eye-opening," "highly relevant," and "timely for the Church's media mission." The facilitators were praised for their knowledge, patience, and approachability.

## Suggestions for Future Sessions:

- Longer duration to delve deeper into certain modules.
- More hands-on sessions with media equipment.
- Follow-up online support or refresher sessions.

## Conclusion:

The PR course at NISCORT by Frs. Cyril, Robin, and Biju was a significant step toward strengthening communication skills among Church personnel. It was both informative and formative, equipping participants to be more effective ambassadors of the Church's message in today's media-driven world.





## Palm Sunday

by Kinley Tshering, SJ

*Multicolored dreams were woven  
As the crowds meandered up the hill.  
Palm branches raised high, swaying,  
Whispered to each other,  
“Is this for real?”*

*The colt was delighted  
Never had it walked on garments before.  
Its silent hooves disturbed the pigeon  
On the temple turret.  
The walls of the temple shivered at this hour  
The ancient veil longed for cleansing waters.*

*The temple fire licked its lips  
For the Lamb of God.  
Jerusalem's hour had come  
To welcome her true King.  
Roman soldiers, standing by,  
Mocked the charade:  
“Who is this King of Glory?”*

*The crowd passed through arches of the years,  
Each bearing their own King of hearts.  
But this path of glory was not the way  
Jesus awoke from this dream.*

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*“Untie those beasts and bring them here.  
These stubborn mules have kicked enough.  
No one could ride this colt till now  
There was no rider good enough!”*



*Throw your burdensome cloaks on the beast,  
Let them be trampled on the ground.  
A new assault begins on Jerusalem,  
To reveal a splendor  
Beyond Solomon's grandeur.*

*Jerusalem's yearning of ages  
Now comes on a donkey.  
Those without eyes sing and dance, “Hosanna!”  
Those without eyes fear the hour awaited.  
The battle begins for Paradise again.*

*Angels above cringe  
With goosebumps of victory.  
Cherubim blush  
With untold love unleashed.*

*Beneath Jerusalem's foundations,  
The earth begins to rumble  
The evil beast  
Will have one final kick,*

### *Kindly Communicate!!!*

Tea Leaves is the medium through which the individual parishes, communities and institutions can share with others, about the activities and events of your areas of work. So please send in the reports of your initiatives and programmes to:

Fr. Alex Gurung, Fr. Richard Lepcha,  
Darjeeling Diocese Communication Commission, Bishop's House, Darjeeling  
E-mail : [lepcharichie12@gmail.com](mailto:lepcharichie12@gmail.com), Mobile : 70295 19723 • [alecgurung@gmail.com](mailto:alecgurung@gmail.com), Mobile : 96418 72925